

Alabama Hills Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)

The Bishop Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP 1993) designated the Alabama Hills a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) because of its unique geological features, riparian habitat and outstanding scenic values.

The Alabama Hills SRMA continues to be recognized as a nationally significant scenic, cultural, recreational, geological, educational, biological and scientific area.

RMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS

Objective Statement: Designate this area as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). Manage the Alabama Hills SRMA to protect unique geologic features and scenic values and to provide compatible recreational opportunities.

Activities: The Alabama Hills SRMA, with unparalleled scenic views, lends itself to recreational activities such as camping, wildlife viewing, rock climbing, sightseeing, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, driving for pleasure, picnicking, photography, wildflower viewing, hiking, mountain biking, jogging, running, walking, stargazing, finding the many historic filming locations where motion pictures and television series were shot, equestrian use, and simply enjoying the unique geology of the area.

Experiences: Visitors enjoying the Alabama Hills SRMA find solitude, tranquility, and enjoyment of the outdoors with family and friends, a release from routine tensions from modern living, satisfaction in exploring new areas, connection with nature, spiritual renewal and exercise.

Benefits: Visitors benefit from enhanced mental and physical health, ownership in America's great outdoors, opportunities for solitude and unconfined outdoor recreation. The community of Lone Pine and the local region also benefit from recreational visitation and from commercial activities such as motion picture filming, through visitors' purchases of goods and services (see Commercial Uses under Other Programs, below).

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTICS (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS

Physical Components: Within 1 mile of four-wheel drive vehicle, ATV and motorcycle routes. Character of the natural landscape retained. A few modifications contrast with character of the landscape. Maintained and marked trails, simple trailhead developments, no toilets. Middle Country.

Social Components: Small areas of alteration. Surface vegetation showing wear with some bare soils. Sounds of people occasionally heard. Middle Country and Back Country.

Operational Components: Types of travel include passenger cars, four-wheel drive vehicles, ATV, occasional dirt bikes in addition to non-motorized, mechanized use. Visitor services and information include area brochures and maps. Staff is seasonally present to provide on-site assistance. Some regulatory and ethics signing. Moderate use restrictions. Middle Country designation.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS & ALLOWABLE USES

Recreation and Visitor Services Program: There is a developed fee campground at Tuttle Creek. The remainder of the Alabama Hills SRMA is open to dispersed camping. BLM may designate areas that are closed to camping to protect scenic, cultural, and biological values or to resolve use conflicts. All vehicles must stay on designated routes. No water available except in the Tuttle Creek campground. Interpretive walks are given by BLM staff. A number of Special Recreation Permits are issued annually for activities solely in the Alabama Hills SRMA.

Targeted resources are scenic values, geologic features and riparian habitats. No discretionary actions which would adversely affect the target resources would be allowed. Existing uses and casual use would be managed to prevent disturbance which would adversely affect the target resources. Manage all routes of travel as open, limited or closed, as designated in the Local TTMP.

Acres by Alternative on BLM Lands:

No Action	Preferred Alternative	1	2	3	4
28,693	35,089	28,723	28,723	28,723	28,723

Other Programs: Scenic qualities will be emphasized when considering permitted activities. New development will be minimized and will only be considered when it promotes scenic values.

Commercial uses conducted in the SRMA under permit from Bishop Field Office include filming of motion pictures, television series and commercials, and documentaries; tours of historic film locations; search and rescue exercises; college and university geology studies, and hot air balloon excursions. These uses are compatible with the recreation experiences in the SRMA, provide economic benefits to the local community, and are monitored to ensure they do not negatively affect recreation, visual, and other resources. Alabama Hills SRMA is designated in the 1993 Bishop RMP as VRM Class II. Manage all routes of travel as open, limited or closed, as designated in the Bishop RMP.

Renewable energy development is not an allowable use in SRMAs due to the incompatibility with the values of the SRMA. Two exceptions to this management action are: 1) geothermal development is an allowable use if a geothermal-only DFA overlays the SRMA designation and complies with a “no surface occupancy” restriction; and, 2) in the Preferred Alternatives if a DRECP variance land designation overlays the SRMA, renewable energy may be allowed on a case-by-case basis if the proposed project is found to be compatible with the specific SRMA values. No DFA or solar variance lands overlay the Alabama Hills National Scenic Cooperative Management Area, so these exceptions do not apply.

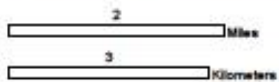
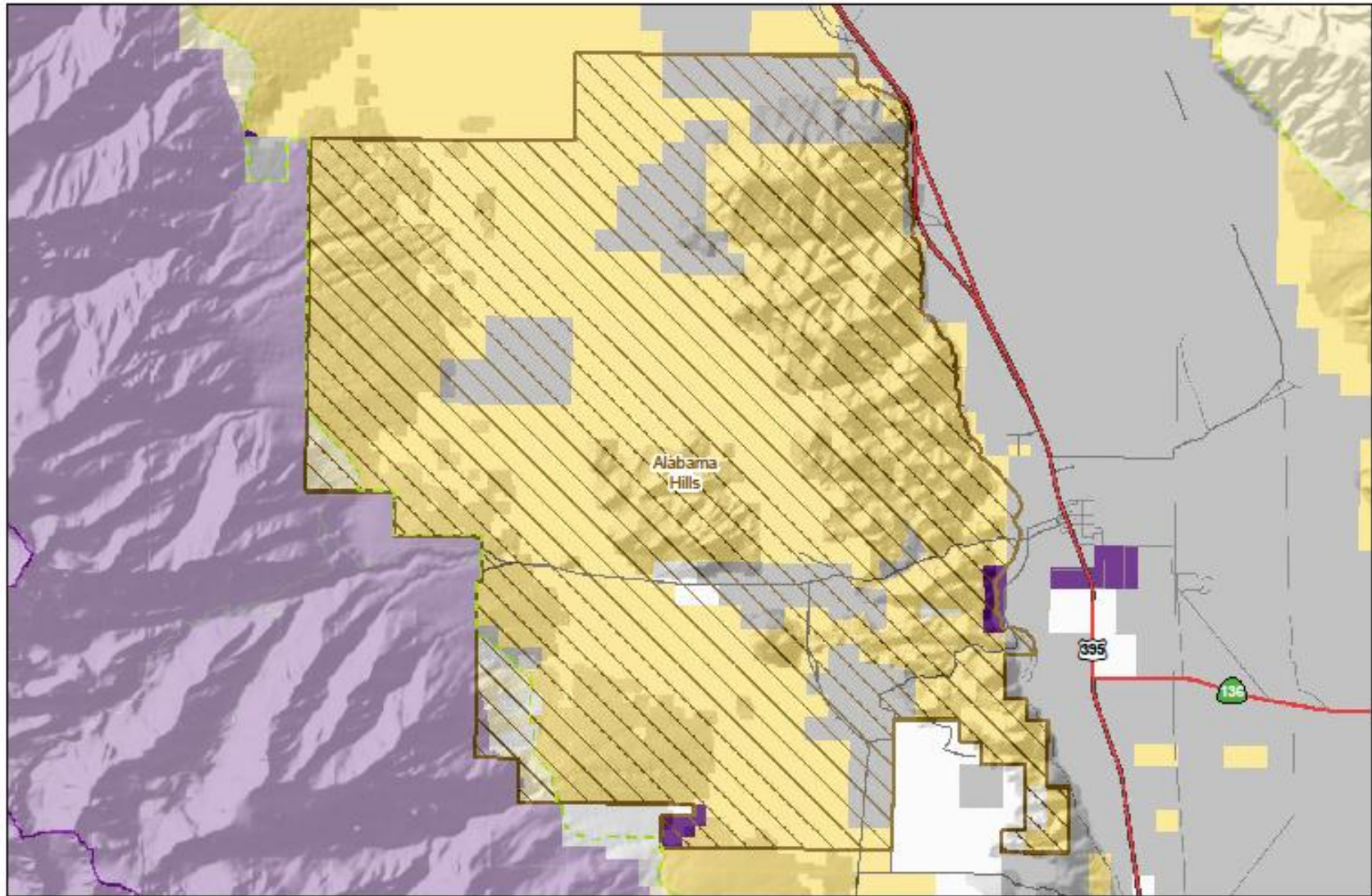
Implementation Decisions: Vehicle routes will be closed when they are redundant or resulting in damage to sensitive scenic, cultural or biological resources.

An activity level plan may be developed to identify and designate current and future recreational opportunities, appropriate facilities to provide for and manage the proposed uses, parameters for streamlined Special Recreation Permitting of recreation events, staffing and funding needs, parameters for facility and road/trail maintenance, partnerships, possible recreation fee considerations, and an implementation schedule.

Mitigation:

1. Maintain through traffic motorized route network connectivity with roads and trails leading into and through the Alabama Hills SRMA.
2. Manage renewable energy development on adjacent and nearby lands to avoid traffic conflicts with visitors & permitted uses.

Alabama Hills



No Action SRMAs

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Prepared by BLM California State Office



ACEC Layers

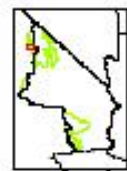
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- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

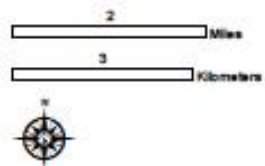
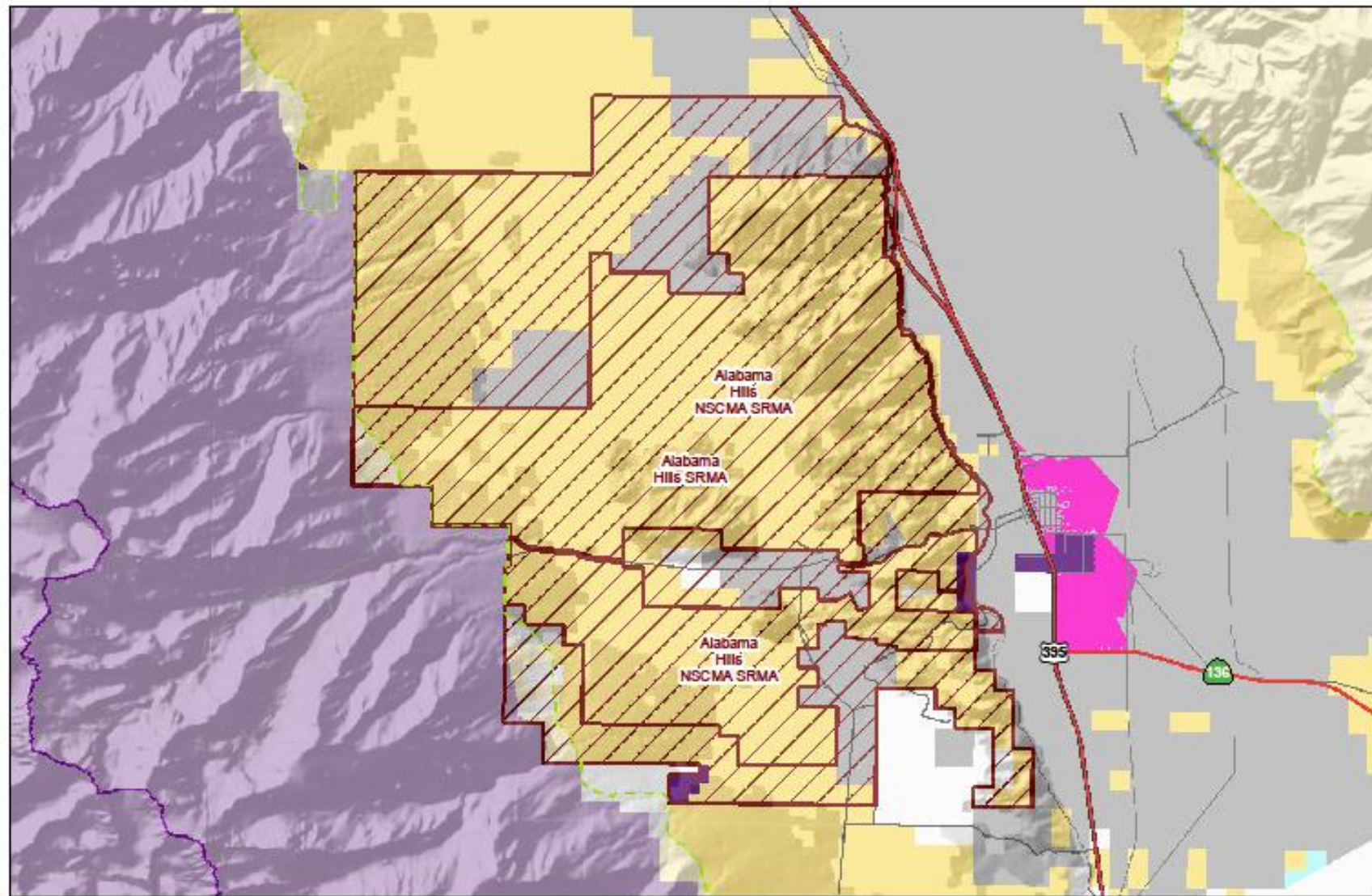
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Alabama Hills SRMA



Preferred Alternative SRMAs and ERMAs



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ACEC Layers

- Proposed SRMA
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

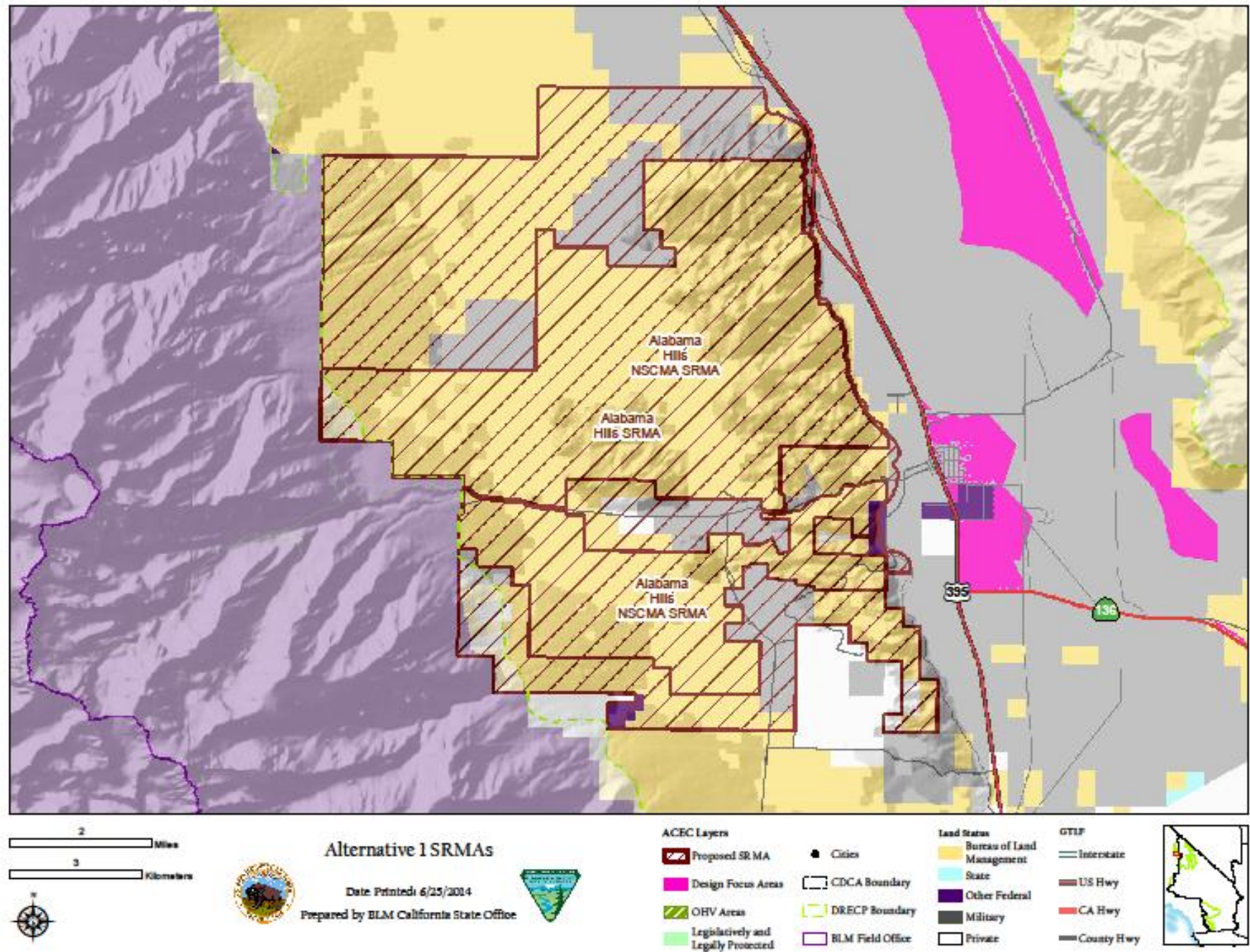
GTIF

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

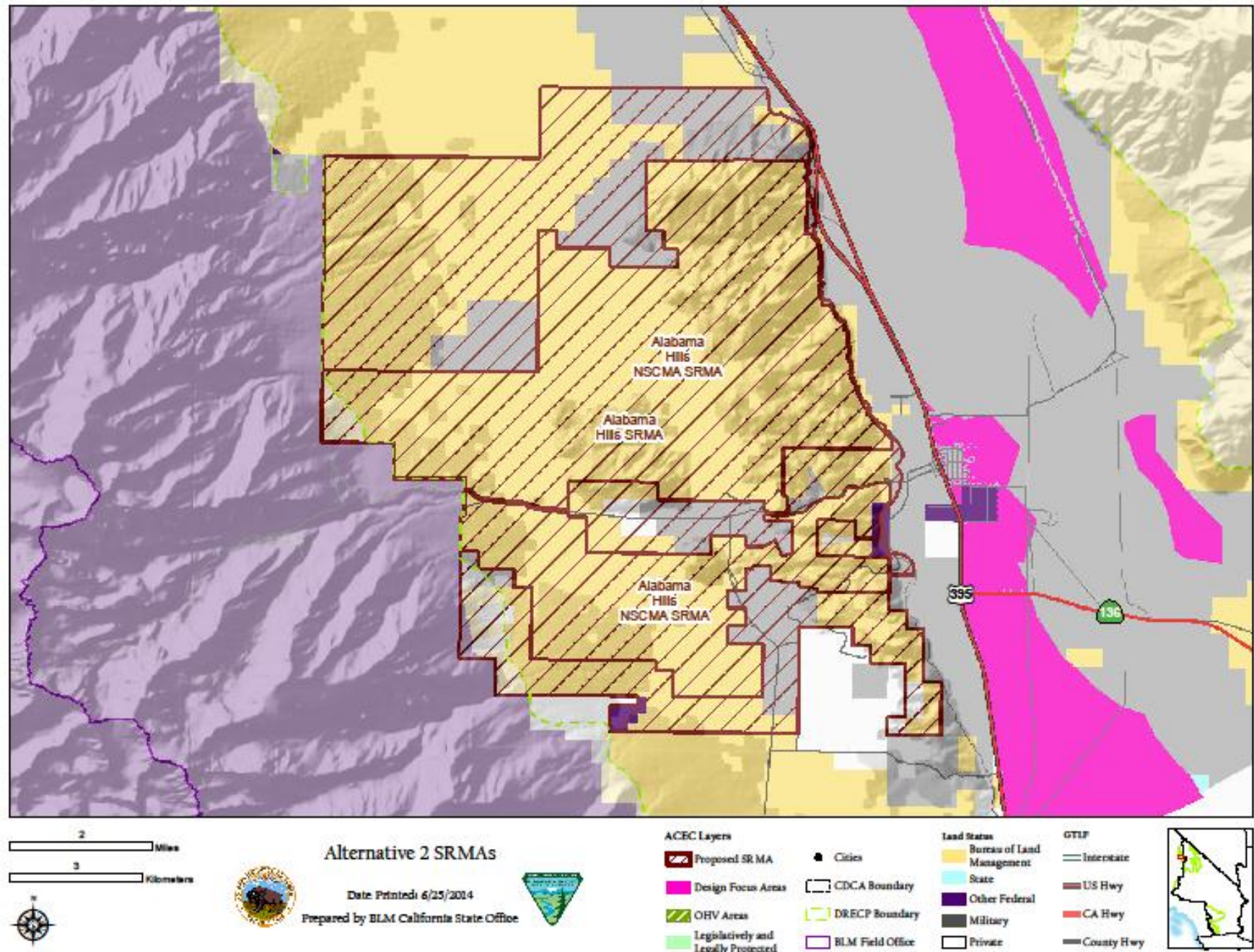


The information and maps shown on this system should be used for planning purposes only. It should not be the sole source for determining map boundary locations.

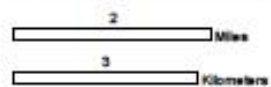
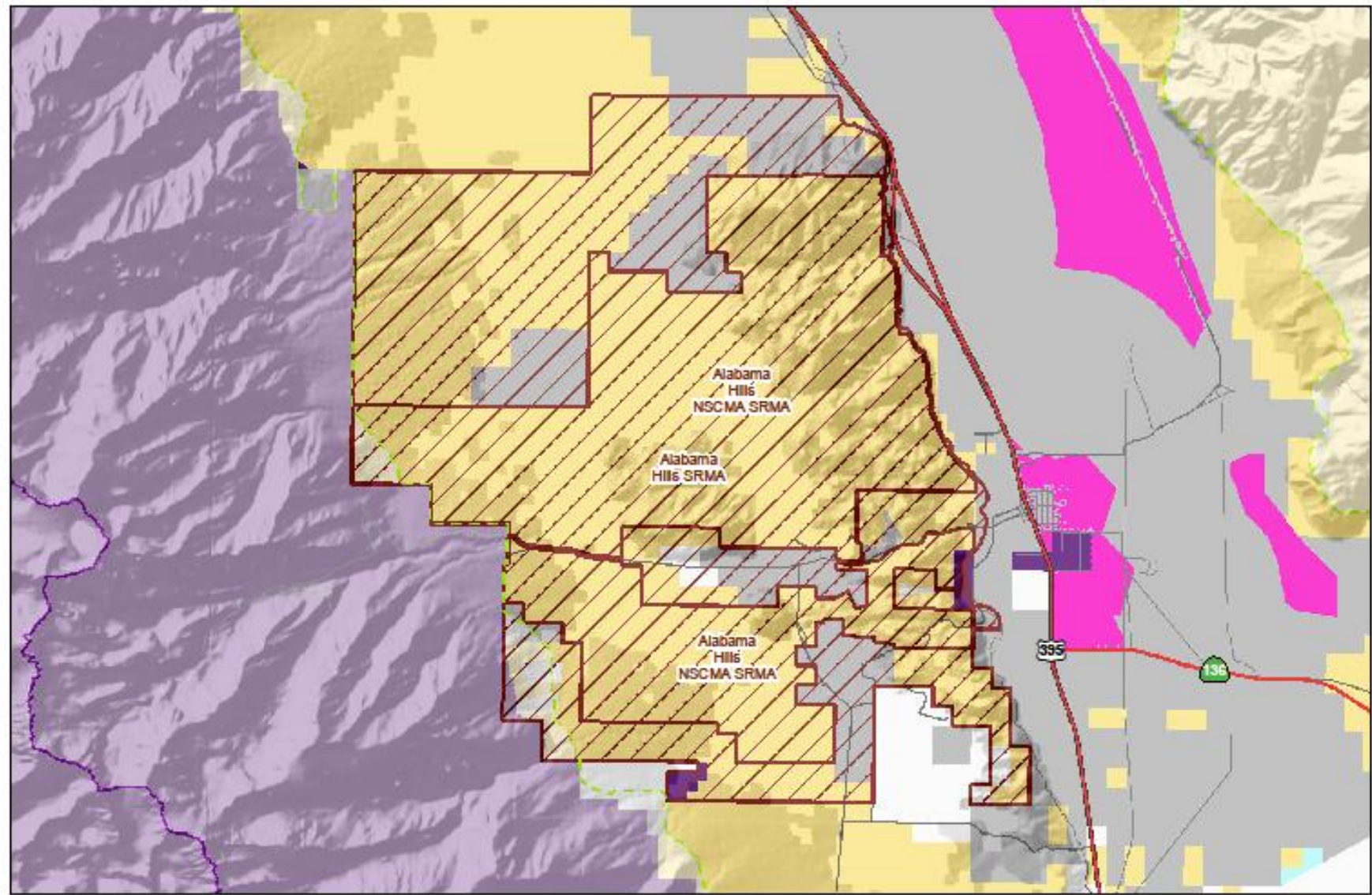
Alabama Hills SRMA



Alabama Hills SRMA



Alabama Hills SRMA



Alternative 3 SRMAs

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ACEC Layers

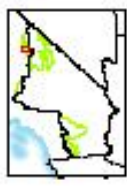
- Proposed SRMA
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

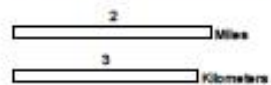
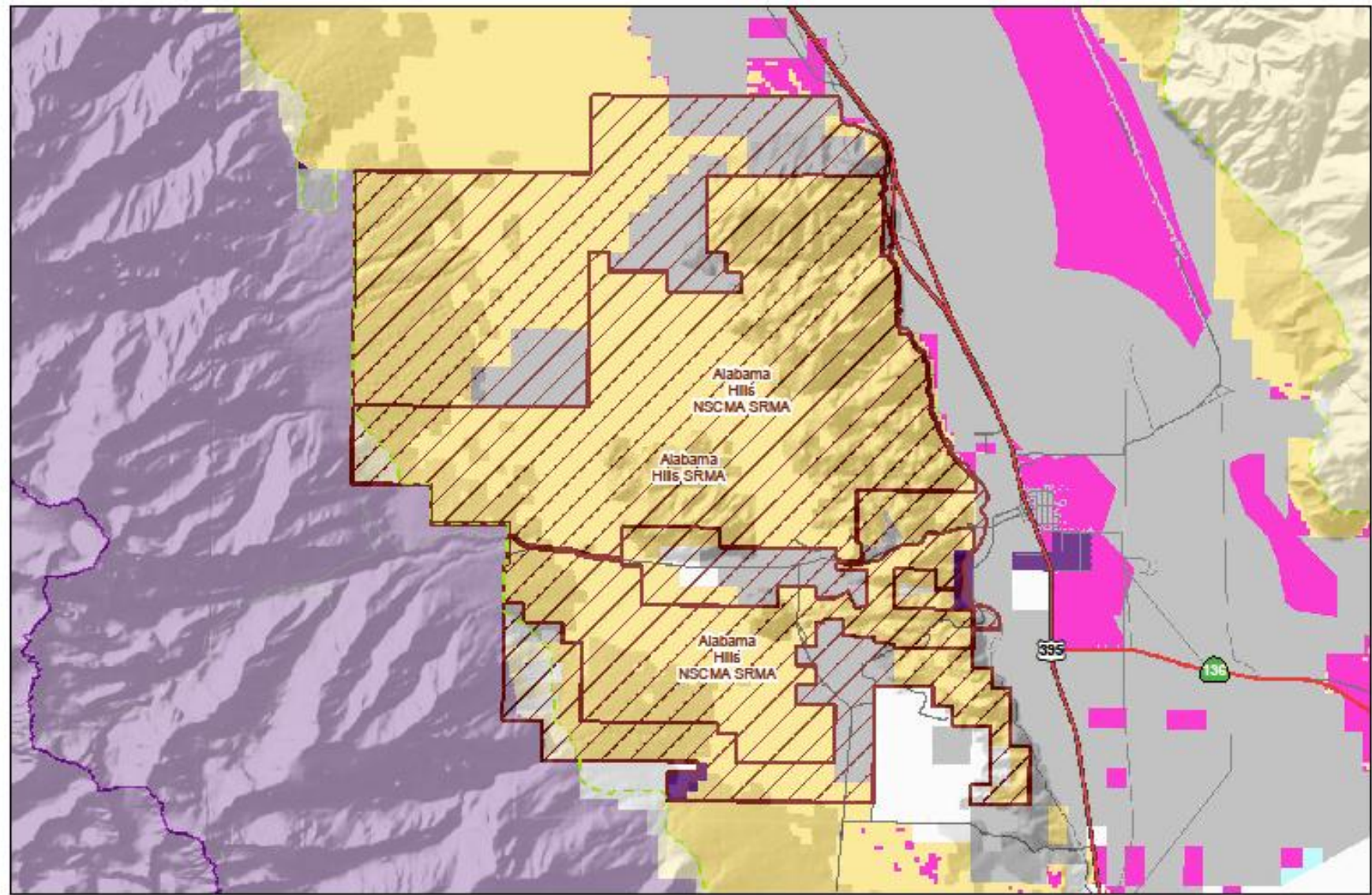
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private

GTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy



Alabama Hills SRMA



Alternative 4 SRMAs

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ACEC Layers

- Proposed SRMA
- Design Focus Areas
- OHV Areas
- Legislatively and Legally Protected
- Cities
- CDCA Boundary
- DRECP Boundary
- BLM Field Office

Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Other Federal
- Military
- Private
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

GTLP

- Interstate
- US Hwy
- CA Hwy
- County Hwy

